

Message Text

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43

ACTION AID-05

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

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TAGS: ELAB, XB, RP

SUBJECT: AID FY 1975 SUPPORT OF ASIAN-AMERICAN FREE LABOR
INSTITUTE (AAFLI) PROGRAMS

REF: STATE 043495

1. BOTH EMBASSY AND USAID HAVE BEEN KEPT INFORMED BY
AAFLI REGIONAL OFFICE IN MANILA OF PLANS FOR COMING
PROGRAM YEAR. WE HAVE NO DIFFICULTIES WITH BUDGETARY
LEVEL AND GENERAL APPROPRIATENESS OF EDUCATION, RESEARCH
AND SOCIAL PROJECTS SPECIFIED PARAGRAPHS 2 AND 3 REFTEL.
WISH EMPHASIZE, HOWEVER, IMPORTANCE RETAINING FLEXIBILITY
TO SWITCH TO OTHER PROGRAMS IF SUDDEN NEED ARISES
DURING BUDGET YEAR. THIS CONSIDERATION OF PARTICULAR
IMPORTANCE IF AS EXPECTED TRADE UNION RESTRUCTURING/
UNIFICATION GETS INTO HIGH GEAR THIS YEAR UNDER ONE
UNION/ONE INDUSTRY CONCEPT.

2. WITH RESPECT AAFLI REGIONAL ACTIVITIES MENTIONED
PARA. 4 REFTEL, EMBASSY SUBMITS ONE SUGGESTION. IN VIEW
FACT 1975 IS IWY, WOULD SEEM PARTICULARLY APPROPRIATE
UNDERTAKE AT LEAST ONE ASIAN REGIONAL PROGRAM INVOLVING
TRADE UNION WOMEN. ONE POSSIBILITY -- DESPITE ADMITTEDLY
SHORT NOTICE -- WOULD BE TO MAKE PROPOSED TRADE UNION
LEADERSHIP FOR WOMEN SEMINAR IN MANILA (TENTATIVELY SET
FOR APRIL 21 - 25) REGIONAL RATHER THAN NATIONAL IN SCOPE.
PHILIPPINES IS PLAYING IMPORTANT ROLE IN IWY (AMBASSADOR
LETICIA RAMOS SHAHANI OF PHILIPPINES IS CHAIRMAN OF UN
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COMMISSION ON STATUS OF WOMEN, SEE MANILA 235 AND 1735),

AND AAFLI REGIONAL SEMINAR FOR ASIAN TRADE UNION WOMEN WOULD BE ASSURED HIGH-LEVEL ATTENTION HERE. FURTHER ATTRACTION FROM U.S. STANDPOINT IS FACT ASIAN PARTICIPANTS SUCH SEMINAR WOULD BE EXPOSED TO CARMEN MAYMI, DIRECTOR OF WOMEN'S BUREAU (SEE MANILA 2473). LABATT HAS DISCUSSED ABOVE SUGGESTION WITH AAFLI COUNTRY DIRECTOR KEN HUTCHISON AND AAFLI REGIONAL DIRECTOR JACK GOODWYN WHO BOTH FAVORABLY DISPOSED AND PLAN RAISE MATTER DURING COURSE AAFLI CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON MARCH 10 - 20.

3. FINALLY, WE WISH LEND OUR FULL SUPPORT TO CONCEPT OF GENERAL CONTINGENCY FUND FOR AAFLI. THIS WAS ONE OF RECOMMENDATIONS SUGGESTED BY MESSRS. STEINBERG AND ELIOT OF AID/W IN THEIR JANUARY 3, 1975 REPORT: AAFLI FIELD APPRAISAL. THEIR PROPOSAL INVOLVED "MODEST (\$100,000) FUND FOR GENERAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES TO BE ESTABLISHED IN AAFLI HEADQUARTERS IN WASHINGTON TO PROVIDE PROGRAM FLEXIBILITY....."

4. IN PHILIPPINES, FOR EXAMPLE, RAPID FORMATION OF INDUSTRIAL FEDERATIONS UNDER RESTRUCTURING COULD NECESSITATE TAPPING OF SUCH CONTINGENCY FUNDS FOR SPECIFIC ASSISTANCE PROJECTS SUCH AS BUILDING OF WORKER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH CENTER FOR UMBRELLA LABOR CONFEDERATION.

5. USAID CONCURS IN ABOVE.
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